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23 April 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Haiti: [Two public appearances within the past week by President Duvalier have served to ease tension in Port-au-Prince over the possibility of a coup.]

[Duvalier was present--with his usual heavy guard--at a military parade marking his birthday on 14 April and at the opening of the Legislative Chamber on 18 April. His appearance at these functions lends credibility to indications that, for the moment at least, he has suppressed plotting against himself and is confident he controls the situation.]

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[The US Embassy in Port-au-Prince noted on 20 April that with Duvalier alert and suspicious, the odds seemed very high against a coup attempt during the next few days.]

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Czechoslovakia - West Germany: [Czechoslovakia is apparently acting in accordance with Moscow's wishes to align its policy with that of East Germany and the USSR on the separate status of Berlin.]

[redacted] Prague has ordered its foreign trade enterprises to renegotiate contracts with West Germany and to cover West Berlin in separate contracts. Foreign trade enterprises also have been ordered to import from the Netherlands rather than from West Germany until negotiations for a new trade agreement with Bonn are completed. Moreover, it appears that the Czech postal service henceforth will not forward mail addressed to West Berlin as part of the Federal Republic.]

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[This policy was reportedly determined in talks between Soviet leaders and Czech President Novotny in the past six months. It has led to further delays in the talks with the West Germans, which have already been under way for two years.]

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Finland: [The non-Communist parties have made no discernible progress toward forming a postelection government after more than a week of formal discussions.]

[The Social Democrats, who by virtue of their electoral gains have been charged with conducting the discussions, are stymied by the Center (Agrarian) Party's professed disinterest in participating in a new government. This may, however, be a bargaining position. The Finnish public generally regards a resumption of cabinet cooperation between these two parties as the best basis for a stable government.]

[The lack of progress in the talks has encouraged the Communists, who are eager to enter the cabinet, to push for a "socialist-based" government. Social Democratic chairman Paasio has said that his party will not accept this solution unless the Center also participates in such a coalition.]

[If the Social Democrats and the Center are unable to agree on a two-party coalition, Paasio may form a Social Democratic minority government, with non-political civil servants in several key posts. Such a government could probably survive until the presidential elections two years hence, but only with Communist support.]

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NOTES

UK - South Africa: [A senior official at the British Foreign Office has indicated that Prime Minister Verwoerd, although unwilling to mediate the Rhodesian dispute, has offered to help bring about a meeting between Prime Ministers Wilson and Smith. Verwoerd suggested that the talks could be held either in South Africa or in Switzerland. The British official commented that such a meeting would be premature and that there would first have to be secret negotiations at lower levels. Oliver Wright, Prime Minister Wilson's former private secretary, has recently been sent to Pretoria and Salisbury on an undisclosed mission.]

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Austria: The program and cabinet presented to parliament on 20 April by People's Party Chancellor Klaus show that the new one-party government has moved to the right. The new regime plans to reorganize certain economic sectors--such as subsidized municipal housing and nationalized industry--which had been controlled by the Socialist Party in coalition government with the People's Party for the last 21 years. First priority, however, is to be given to concluding an arrangement with the EEC. The principal Austrian negotiator with the EEC, Fritz Bock, has been promoted to the vice chancellorship, and retains the Trade Ministry.

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European Space Programs: [The European Launcher Development Organization ministerial conference in Paris on 26-28 April, according to various European space officials, will probably involve a "major confrontation" provoked by British threats to withdraw--essentially for financial reasons. The other five members are concerned over the implications of the British position for the future of European regional and national space programs. Uncertainty over the prospects for joint European space efforts may delay agreement on US proposals for cooperative US-European space arrangements.]

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